

**Missouri State University
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

**Course Syllabus
CRM 397-899: Criminal Psychology**

Fall 2018

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**Office Hours: MW 8:45-11:15
(Also Available by Appointment)**

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth analysis of principles and theories of delinquent and criminal behavior from a psychological perspective. We will explore developmental, biological, and behavioral/cognitive risk and protective factors as well as the process of psychological conditioning that can lead to the commission of violent criminal acts. We will approach this study from a critical perspective, giving attention to the social, economic, and political context in which crime takes place and how these contexts influence the offender's behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the varieties of developmental pathways within which criminal behavior develops
- Be able to compare and contrast the legal, social, and psychological definitions of crime and delinquency
- Identify the socio-cognitive behavioral framework within which criminal offending takes place
- Distinguish the different biological, cognitive, and developmental correlates of criminal behavior
- Critically evaluate the theoretical literature pertaining to the origins of crime from a psychological perspective
- Analyze the various measures of psychopathy and the diagnoses that are most relevant to criminal behavior

Required Text:

Bartol, Curt R. and Bartol, Anne. 2017. *Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach*, 11th Edition. Pearson Education.

Hass-Wisecup, Aida Y. 2019. *Typologies of Criminal Behavior*. Cognella Publishing.

Course Assessment:

TESTS – There are 3 tests throughout our course. Each test covers the chapters that are included in that section. Tests are NOT cumulative. Each test consists of 33 questions, including multiple choice, T/F, and fill in the blank terms. Tests are worth 100 points each. The dates of the exams can be found on our course site in the WEEKLY MODULES tab.

FINAL EXAM – There is a cumulative final exam at the end of our course. The final exam format will be similar to the other 3 tests, but will consist of 50 questions. The final exam is worth 100 points. The date is TBA.

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION FORUMS – There are 5 Activities that are assigned throughout our course. Each activity is worth 10 points, for a total of 50 points. There are also 10 Discussion Forum prompts assigned throughout this course. Each discussion post is worth 5 points for a total of 50 possible points. Please refer to our course site in the COURSE INFORMATION tab for more information and details about the *activities and discussion forums*. The due dates for the activities and discussion posts are located in the various weekly modules on our course site in the WEEKLY MODULES tab.

Grading:

In order to give students appropriate credit, grades will be reported on the basis of the following scale.

90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B
70 – 79 = C
60 – 69 = D
59 and below = F

Course Outline:

Chapter 1 - Introduction to Criminal Behavior

- Identify the different perspectives of human nature that underlie the theoretical development and research of criminal behavior.
- Introduce various theories that may help explain crime.
- Describe the three major disciplines in criminology: sociological, psychological, and psychiatric.
- Point out that the study of criminal behavior and delinquency, from a psychological perspective, has shifted from a personality toward a more cognitive and developmental focus.
- Define criminal behavior and juvenile delinquency.
- Introduce the reader to the various measurements of criminal and delinquent behavior.

Chapters 2 and 3- Origins of Criminal Behavior: Developmental Risk Factors and Biological Factors

- Introduce cumulative risk and developmental cascade models.
- Identify social, family, and psychological developmental risk factors that lead to delinquency and crime.
- Demonstrate how ear
- Stress the connection between cognitive abilities and delinquency and crime.
- Explore the genetic and biological aspects of criminal behavior.
- Provide an overview of behavior genetics and molecular genetics as they pertain to antisocial behavior.
- Provide an overview of twin and adoption studies and their relation to theories of crime.
- Discuss temperament and its effects on the behavior of children
- Identify environmental risk factors that play a role in criminal behavior.
- Summarize recent research on child and adolescent brain development

Chapter 4 - Origins of Criminal Behavior: Learning and Situational Factors

- Present learning and cognitive factors as key elements in the development of delinquent and criminal behavior.
- Review the historical background of behaviorism and its contributions to understanding human learning of delinquent and criminal behavior.
- Review the fundamental principles of social learning and its contributions to understanding antisocial behavior.
- Describe the power of the social situation, authority, and deindividuation in instigating criminal actions.
- Provide overview of recent research on moral development

Chapter 5 - Human Aggression and Violence

- Review the major theories on the development of aggression and violence.
- Explore the interactions of biology and cognitive processes in aggressive behavior and violence.
- Outline important key concepts in understanding aggression and violence, such as weapons effect, modeling, and hostile attribution bias.
- Introduce the General Aggression Model and I3 Theory.
- Review the effects of digital, electronic, and other media on aggression and violence.

Chapter 6 - Juvenile Delinquency

- Contrast legal, social, and psychological definitions of delinquency.
- Identify the categories and extent of juvenile offending, including status and serious offending.
- Describe varieties of developmental theories and models of delinquency.
- Introduce callous-unemotional traits as features of serious delinquency.
- Explore primary and secondary prevention strategies.

Chapter 7 – Psychopathy

- Review the various measures of psychopathy.

- Review the evidence for juvenile psychopathy.
- Identify the ethical dilemmas that juvenile psychopathy presents.
- Examine the neurobiological aspects of psychopathy.
- Introduce the dual-process model of psychopathy.
- Discuss representative research on treatment strategies used

Chapter 8 - Crime and Mental Disorders

- Provide an overview of the DSM and the diagnoses that are most relevant to criminal behavior.
- Review issues relating to competency to stand trial and the insanity defense.
- Discuss the prevalence of mental illness in incarcerated populations.
- Define risk assessment and identify the risk factors employed in assessing violent criminal behavior.
- Explore the relationship between mental disorder and violence.

Chapter 9 - Homicide, Assault, and Intimate Partner Violence

- Define criminal homicide, negligent manslaughter, and aggravated assault.
- Review the demographics of homicide victims and offenders.
- Introduce a typology of homicide.
- Discuss the dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV).
- Present the research on family violence, its dynamics, and its causes.
- Review research on child and elderly abuse.

Chapter 10 – Multiple Murder, School and Workplace Violence

- Define and review research on investigative psychology and profiling.
- Describe the five types of profiling and their relevance to investigating serious crime.
- Summarize what is known about serial killers and their victims.
- Summarize what is known about mass murderers and their victims.

Chapter 11 – Psychology of Modern Terrorism

- Evaluate the motives and goals of terrorist groups.
- Introduce a typology of terrorism that emphasizes the multidimensional features of persons who engage in it.
- Introduce theories that explain terrorist motives.
- Discuss the motives of terrorists and identify psychological concepts that contribute to the -understanding of terrorist activity.

Chapter 12 - Sexual Assault

- Review sexual assault of dates and acquaintances, including campus assault.
- Discuss the psychological impact of sexual assault on survivors.
- Examine risk factors for sexual assault victimization.
- Describe risk factors that influence the development of sexually assaultive behavior.
- Review attitudes and myths that support rape and other sexual assaults.
- Describe various typologies of sexual offenders
- Review principles of effective treatment for adult sex offenders.

Chapter 13 - Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth

- Review the prevalence and forms of child sex abuse.
- Discuss psychological effects on victims.
- Describe the key characteristics of child sex offenders.
- Review the research literature on classification systems of child sex offenders.
- Discuss contemporary research on Internet-facilitated child pornography.
- Discuss sex trafficking and its prevention.
- Identify treatment approaches to reducing child sex offender recidivism.

Chapter 14 - Burglary, Home Invasions, Thefts, and "White-Collar" Offenses

- Sketch burglary, including property cues, motives, demographics, and cognitive processes of burglars.
- Discuss the psychological effects of burglary on victims.
- Describe the nature of home invasions.
- Examine motor vehicle theft, including carjacking and the motives and decision making of offenders.
- Describe identity theft and its psychological consequences.
- Discuss the prevalence of shoplifting along with motives and other psychological factors.
- Review the definitions and typologies of "white-collar crime," including Green's categories of -occupational crime.

Chapter 15 - Violent Economic Crime, Cybercrime, and Crimes of Intimidation

- Define and discuss robbery and the reasons behind the offense.
- Define and distinguish cybercrime, cyberstalking, and cyberbullying.
- Examine the literature on stalking.
- Outline hostage-taking offenses and their characteristics.
- Carefully summarize the literature on arson, with particular emphasis on juvenile fire-setting.
- Examine the psychological motives attached to serial arsons.

Chapter 16 - Substance Abuse and Crime

- Summarize the effects of the psychoactive drugs that have been most connected to crime and -delinquency.
- Caution about and emphasize the many individual differences in reactions to illegal drugs and alcohol.
- Define and explain drug tolerance and dependence.
- Examine closely the extent of juvenile substance and alcohol use.
- Explain the tripartite conceptual model and experimental substance use.
- Note the illegal drugs most commonly used in the United States.
- Focus on the effects and extent of marijuana use, because this is the most popular illicit drug today.
- Discuss the sharp increase in the use of synthetic narcotics.
- Sketch the relationship between alcohol abuse and crime and delinquency.

University Policy on Nondiscrimination:

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the [Office for Equity and Diversity](#), Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity/.

University Policy on Disability Accommodation:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of [Disability Services](#), Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792 (TTY), www.missouristate.edu/disability. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the [Learning Diagnostic Clinic](#), which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the [Learning Diagnostic Clinic](#), (417) 836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc>.

University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available at www.missouristate.edu/assets/provost/AcademicIntegrityPolicyRev-1-08.pdf and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

University Policy on Emergency Response:

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional

options when applicable with the instructor. For more information, you can visit the website at <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>. Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Services. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For additional information students should contact the *Office of Disability Services*, 836-4192 (PSU 405), or Larry Combs, Interim Assistant Director of *Public Safety and Transportation* at 836-6576. For further information on Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan, please refer to the following website: www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm.

University Policy on Cell Phones:

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Facebook

The Department has a Facebook site where we frequently highlight student and faculty accomplishments, as well as provide updates on criminal justice job opportunities and other exciting events happening in the field. You can find our Facebook site at: <https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

Accelerated Master's Program

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers an accelerated Master's program for qualified undergraduate criminology majors. Through this option, you may take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework which simultaneously count as both Bachelor's and Master's credit. By pursuing the accelerated Master's, it is possible for a student to graduate with both his or her Bachelor's Degree and a Master's level certificate in Homeland Security or Community Corrections in a 4-year period. Learn more about our accelerated program at <http://criminology.missouristate.edu/master/accelerated.htm>

or contact Dr. Patti Salinas, the Graduate Program Director, at PattiSalinas@MissouriState.edu.